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FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1954
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS RIYADH 001543

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE PASS TO USTR FOR CHRIS WILSON, JASON BUNTIN
STATE PASS TO DOC FOR STEVEN GARRETT
DEPT FOR NEA/ARP, EEB/TPP/BTA, E FOR U/S ROBERT HORMATS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ETRD](#) [KIPR](#) [ECON](#) [EINV](#) [PREL](#) [SA](#)
SUBJECT: FIRST-EVER SAUDI REFERRAL OF COPYRIGHT VIOLATION
TO BOARD OF GRIEVANCES IMMINENT PER DEPUTY MINISTER

REF: A. RIYADH 524
[B](#). RIYADH 575
[C](#). RIYADH 789
[D](#). RIYADH 793
[E](#). RIYADH 982
[F](#). JEDDAH 297
[G](#). RIYADH 1202
[H](#). RIYADH 1366
[I](#). RIYADH 1375
[J](#). RIYADH 1423
[K](#). RIYADH 1425
[L](#). RIYADH 1426
[M](#). RIYADH 1441
[N](#). RIYADH 1459
[O](#). RIYADH 1493

[1](#). (SBU) Deputy Minister of Culture and Information Abdulrahman Al-Hazzaa told Econoffs that the Violations Review Committee (VRC) would refer two copyright violation cases to the Board of Grievances with recommendations for 150,000 SAR fines and 15 days imprisonment in both cases. Al-Hazzaa said he would personally present the two cases to Minister of Culture and Information Khoja, and he said he expected the Minister would approve the referral. The VRC has agreed that both cases warrant referral to the Board, he continued, emphasizing the Committee "would not change its mind" on this decision. The VRC will conclude its deliberations and present the referral to the Minister once they hear the accused parties' testimonies. One of the accused parties was scheduled to appear before the VRC on November 18. Al-Hazzaa said that one of the two suspects had delayed responding to the summons, which held up the referral, as the Board will not receive a case until the accused has provided a statement.

[2](#). (SBU) Comment: Al-Hazzaa previously told visiting AUSTR Chris Wilson and members of the U.S. - Saudi IP Working Group that a referral would occur in the near future. He has delivered in the past and has proven to be a sincere interlocutor to date. Post believes he will follow through with the referrals as soon as the VRC completes its due diligence, which includes hearing the testimony of the accused. With the advent of the Eid holiday, this referral may not take place until early December.
SMITH